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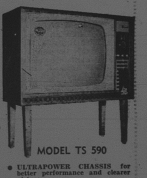


The Mercury
Hobart: July 17, 1969

Three-year Parliament

THE Premier offered a strong and soundly based defence to the Opposition attack in the House of Assembly yesterday on the Government's attitude to three-year parliaments. Its effectiveness as a reasoned argument was made the greater by its contrast to the exaggerated phrases used by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr Fagan) who seems to have been carried away by his own rhetoric.

Mr Bethune's answer to charges that, by not curtailing the life of the present parliament to three years, the Government is breaking faith with electors was simply that the Liberal Party had never at any stage promised to do so. It had said it would legislate for three-year parliaments and is doing so; it did not include the present parliament in this undertaking.

Whether or not the "mess" left by the Labour Government is as big as Mr Bethune claims, there is substance in the argument that the new Government needs time to establish itself and to implement its policies.

The Premier also scotched the accusation that the Government gave way to pressure from Mr Lyons. But even if this had been so there was nothing wrong in it. Bargaining is part of the formation of any coalition and Mr Bethune could have agreed without breaking any promises.

But the Opposition is right in saying that the impression was that three-year parliaments would include the present one. It was a wrong impression which arose from people noting the promise without studying the words. And for this reason alone the debate has been worth while for the Government. It has been able to put the record straight publicly.

The Premier has repeated his statement that he will call the next election in less than five years which should help mollify any lingering resentment. The important point is that three-year parliaments will be brought back.

Rough final in Honduras

EXCEPT for a brief and unofficial flurry between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in the 50's, the fighting between Salvador and Honduras is the first military outbreak for 60 years in the "banana republics" of Central America. The immediate cause of the clash is a football competition, but there is a more serious friction of long standing.

Salvador is the smallest and most crowded of the States in the Americas; 3,000,000 people are packed into an area less than a third the size of Tasmania. Many thousands have spilled into adjoining countries, particularly Honduras, and mostly illegally. Salvadoreans are industrious and do well wherever they settle, and this has caused resentment in Honduras.

Bad relations were brought to a head by the preliminary round of the World Soccer Cup. The Salvador team went to Honduras, lost, and claimed they were badly treated. The return match played in Salvador was won by Salvador and there is no doubt that the Honduras team and supporters were poorly treated. The news caused Hondurans to run riot and attack Salvadorean settlers.

Salvador lodged a charge of genocide against Honduras in the Organisation of American States, and the two countries broke off diplomatic relations. On both sides there were demands for revenge and war, and apparently Salvador decided to get in first.

Meanwhile the OAS has appointed a commission to investigate the quarrel and it is on its way to the area. Both countries have only small armies, and it is doubtful whether they will

● Man on the moon

I suspect that my first thought will be "by George, I'm really here"

Neil Armstrong in an interview tells of his reactions to being selected as the first man to step onto the moon.

EVERY time I've flown in a new aeroplane when I got off the ground I looked around and said, "By George, I'm really flying it!" I suspect that the same thoughts will come on the moon: "By George, I'm really here!"

In these words Neil Armstrong summed up his expected reactions to the landing when interviewed during the final stages of training. The interview in detail:

Q: How do you feel about being the first man to set foot on another part of the universe?

A: I really do feel and hope that the public will recognise the thing as a group effort. Who the individual happens to be who gets to take the first step is happenstance. That's just the way things fell out. It could just as easily have been someone on the next flight or the one before. It depended on how the cards fell, so I see it as a group achievement.

Training

Q: What are your personal feelings?

A: I'm certainly not going to say I'm without emotion at the thought, because that wouldn't be factual. But I think more about day-to-day things that have to be done — the factual parts of touching down on the lunar surface and doing this and that job. I don't think very much about the emotional aspects. But they exist.

Q: What kind of training are you undergoing to prepare for the landing on the moon?

A: We are spending 10-12 hours a day, five-six days a week, in simulations of the flight at the Kennedy Space Centre. We practise the mission in mock-ups of the vehicles which are controlled by computer. The computers present various nominal and emergency situations and problems, and we react just as we would in space.

The computers respond the way a spacecraft would. You can look out the window of the LM simulator, for example, and see the moon's surface just as you would before landing. Moving controls in the simulator changes your position in relation to the landing site just as it would on the moon.

Q: What have you learned from Apollo 10 and the previous Apollo flights?

A: We were concerned about communications at lunar distance. The Manned Space Flight Network on earth has the prime responsibility for navigation to and from the moon. That implies we will always have communications with them.

If not, we must do the navigation on our own, and then there is no backup or alternative. As you remember, on Apollo 8 and 10 communications were much better than we expected, or at least much better than I expected. We were very pleased with that.

The second thing of real significance was the onboard navigation capability. A lot of people really didn't believe that this business of taking sextant measurements and computing them in a digital computer would produce a good navigation job. But of course that came through with flying colours, too. It gave us a lot of confidence not only in that particular job, but also in all the related jobs you do with the same equipment.

Apollo 10 gave us confidence concerning those things that we haven't done yet in space. We now feel that we have a lot better chance of doing them because of the performance of the systems on that mission.

I always wonder about propulsion systems in this kind of work. But the propulsion people are really able to test their system on the ground and give you good assurance that the engine is going to work in the air.

New things

That's not so true with a guidance system. A computer operation you can check on the ground, but there are questions about the optics. Can you see stars, can you measure them, can you tell where the horizon is? All those things were completely unknown. We had no way of finding out through analysis. When everything worked so well on the two previous moon missions it bolstered our confidence.

Q. I guess the things that bother you most are the things which you must do for the first time.

A. You always worry about the things that haven't been done before. That's why we build programmes the way we do so you don't take too many new things on any one flight. You have a limited number of new manoeuvres that you can prepare for.

You have to learn these a lot more deeply than something that's been looked at before. After a thing has been demonstrated to work pretty well, you sorta take it for granted that it's going to work and you don't worry so much about a lot of possible side effects.

Q. When you learned you would lead the world to the moon, did you pick up the phone and call your wife immediately?

A. No.

Q. Did you wait until you got home that night to tell her?

A. Yes.

Q. What was her reaction?

A. She was very pleased about it. She wanted to know if I was, too. I said I was.

Q. If you were not an astronaut, what profession would you choose?

A. I would like to go into teaching or any other profession which would give me the opportunity for independent research and for making a contribution to society. The employer is less important than the opportunity for independent rethought and activity.

No fears

Q. What has been your most satisfying experience during the preparations for the first lunar landing?

A. Those times when your idea, however small, is included as part of the programme and demonstrates its merit as a contribution to human knowledge.

Q. Last year, you narrowly escaped death in the crash of a lunar module training vehicle. Does this increase your fears about the flight?

A. I don't have any fears for myself. I have a greater concern that if we had some kind of problem not only the space programme, but the country would feel that tragedy.

Q. Are you going to have any navigation problems, particularly when you have to leave the lunar surface at precisely the right time and attitude to rendezvous with the command module.

A. Yes. There are a couple of things that we need to prove yet. We don't know if we will be able to see the stars we need for navigation during the lunar day. Star sights are used to align the navigation reference system to be sure we get back to the command module.

If we can't use the stars we hope to use lunar gravity. Aligning the system with earth's gravity is often done, but it's never been demonstrated on the moon. However, I think we have enough options available to us that we can certainly pick one that's satisfactory.

Landing risk

Q. What is the most critical part of the flight?

A. We have uncertainties in the navigation, and we have less fuel margin than you'd like to have for the landing part. I would consider the critical hurdle is to get over the possible transition from automatic to manual control as we reach a point some 600-700 feet from the landing site. It will be critical until we are sure that the vehicle responds the way we want it to.

Once we get in that situation we'll know whether we can get it on the surface safely with the fuel remaining. As soon as we get past that hurdle and the vehicle is responding, I think we'll feel pretty good about it.

Q. Then landing is more risky than the takeoff?

A. The landing is more complex because the system is more complex. But if something should go wrong on the way down you can turn back by using the engines on the ascent stage of the lunar module.

On take-off, however, you have fewer alternatives. You leave the descent stage behind, so if the ascent engine quits you're in serious trouble. But the ascent system is simpler, so I'd say they're about equal. If we get only a partial burn the ascent engine ought to put us high enough so that the command module can come down and rescue us.

Q. What do you personally think about the dangers of this flight?

A. Our business is trying to find out where the danger spots are and make them less dangerous. It'd be silly to say that we don't think of the dangers because that's what we do all the time. We try to make each mission less dangerous and more productive and efficient. But we don't really think about it from a personal point of view so much — not from personal danger consideration.

Q. As far as you're concerned, what is the most important part of the manned space programme?

A. It is the development of spacecraft and the techniques required to operate them to permit exploration. I'd be terribly chagrined if people thought I was only a spacecraft driver. I don't think of flying as a job, but as a way of doing a job.

Just as a microscope is a research tool, so a spacecraft is an operational tool for acquiring knowledge.

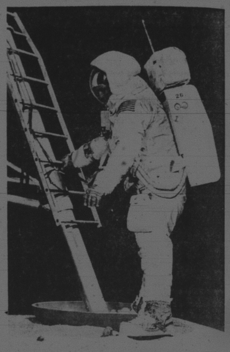
Learning

In these early Apollo flights we are learning how to best use this tool to carry out the exploration of space.

The manned probe of the moon is a vital and thrilling experiment, but there are many more fascinating experiments in the future.

I think there will be a great many other firsts after the lunar landing — the first to land on Mars, the first to go to the asteroid belt, the first to whiz by Jupiter and many more.

Armstrong and his wife, Jan, relax at their home near the Manned Spacecraft Centre. They have two sons.



Neil Armstrong rehearses the landing. He is wearing a special white overall over his space suit as protection against meteorites. The 50lb pack contains oxygen supply and communications equipment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Punishment as deterrent to crimes of violence

MR FAGAN'S statements against capital and corporal punishment certainly gave the impression that his sympathy lies with the criminal.

Little has been done in the past to prevent the viciousness in our midst.

Mr Fagan can be assured that quite a number, especially parents, would be only too willing to administer any necessary whippings to those vicious animals who attack young children, the aged, helpless, and handicapped, many of whom suffer from the attack for the rest of their lives.

Mr Fagan also stated that conclusive evidence had not been established that capital punishment had proved a deterrent to murder.

I would say nor has it been established that imprisonment for a few years has acted as a deterrent.

It is pitiful that a small band of men cannot work together in harmony for the good of its people without constant wrangling. Why not let this present Government continue doing the good it is already doing without back-biting and destructive criticism from the Opposition.

Lindisfarne. ANOM.

I have always been opposed to hanging, as I believe it is barbaric, but there are more civilised methods of capital punishment, such as the gas chamber.

Sterner measures must be taken to stamp out crimes of violence. Whipping is appropriate for those who attack women and children.

There are many islands around our coast. Why not use one of them for penal purposes?

Cygnet. R. W. WATSON.

Mr Fagan says capital punishment was abolished because it was not a deterrent. Am I to understand that gaoling, not being a deterrent either, should also be abolished?

A free man shall not be deterred by anything but his conscience, so let us call a punishment a punishment, and if it deters, let us consider it good luck. In our law books we fix penalties, not deterrents.

Murder is a unique crime, fit for a unique penalty. Execution is not a vengeance. The murderer has to be caught, charged, tried, and 12 men convinced of his guilt. That is not vengeance; that's justice. Further, the jury may consider that a cause was shown why, though guilty, he should not be executed.

New Norfolk. J. K. LUKER.

RMS Ophir

Recent references in "The Mercury" to Tasmania's connection with the RMS Ophir in 1901 must have jogged the memory of original members of Tasmania's 40th Battalion.

The battalion embarked on the Berrima at Hobart on July 1, 1916, and arrived at Dakar, on the west coast of Africa, in early August in convoy with the New Zealand transports Tahiti and Maunganui, to find their future escort, the Ophir, then a converted cruiser, awaiting them.

The Ophir accompanied them as far as the Bay of Biscay, when a tiny destroyer for each transport arrived and guarded the three vessels the rest of the way to Plymouth. Meanwhile, the Ophir had headed west into the Atlantic.

Mt Stuart. R. A. BIGGS.

Parliament on TV

Three cheers for your columnist Margaret Peacock. By all means spare us the televising of Federal Parliament. While we're about it, spare us the "dreadful voices" on the radio coverage. And what about sparing us the drag of having to vote on polling days?

In fact, spare us anything which might lead us to think for ourselves.

Dynnyrne. G. H. HINE.

Milk cartons

I strongly support "Mother of Ten" in her comments about milk in cartons. I am a mother of four, sole supporter of my family, and only just manage to pay the milk bill, as well as all other expenses.

We need milk at a reasonable price, and are quite content buying it in bottles. An increase of 3c a pint would put another burden on the shoulders of low-income strugglers.

MOTHER OF FOUR.
Glenorchy.

I agree wholeheartedly with "Mother of Ten" regarding the cost of milk. I certainly do not think an increase would be warranted as, after all, it must be cheaper to provide cartons rather than expensive glass bottles.

I would like to know who the Federated Association of Housewives think they are? I thought their aim was to try to reduce costs for housewives, not to agree that any "slight" increase whatsoever is warranted.

Perhaps it would suit the Housewives' Association better if they sought to improve the quality of the milk rather than the packaging.

(Mrs) B. L. KROMKA.
Rokeby.

National film theatre

AS chairman of the National Committee of the National Film Theatre of Australia and also of its Tasmanian branch, I would like to comment on Mr Judge's letter about the NFTA's advertisements.

All National Film Theatre screenings, not only in Australia, but in the many other countries that have National Film Theatres, are private screenings, confined to members only. The purpose of our advertisements is therefore to provide information to our members and prospective members.

Membership is open only to persons over 18, and the form on which application for membership is made includes a statement that the applicant is over this age.

There is thus no possibility of anyone under 18 years seeing an "Adults Only" film at a NFTA screening. We are in this respect in a much stronger position than the commercial theatres, which can hardly be expected to extract a signed statement from teenagers about their age before admitting them to an "Adults Only" programme.

(Prof) A. K. STOUT.
Sandy Bay.

TODAY'S TEXT

TCA ground amenities

I SUPPORT Mr M. Wise's remarks about the TCA toilets as they are a disgrace and an insult to the patrons who attend sporting functions.

The Tasmanian Cricket Association, which is the landlord, has allowed all buildings to deteriorate. The Hobart Football Club and the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club are doing their share towards progress and cater for patrons, yet both these sporting bodies are tenants.

A few years ago the council condemned the supper room and it was demolished, leaving a hole in the wall and one in the ground. No replacement was made. Several of the old buildings along with the toilets are in such a shocking state that these should also be condemned.

It appears to me that the task is now too large for the TCA, and control of the ground should be taken over by the Hobart City Council to develop as a respectable sports ground.

The HGRC is responsible for the improved facilities such as grandstands, fences, and patron cover, and, certainly, with the Hobart Football Club, could develop the ground with a prudent landlord.

It appears that rental received is subsidising cricket. Cricket is a

More patrons attend sporting fixtures at the TCA ground than at North Hobart, yet there is no comparison in recent development of the two grounds.

Glebe. A. BENNETT.

Vice-Regal

Yesterday morning, the Governor (Sir Edric Bastyan) re-

Adults' part in teenage morals

IT is with much interest and concern, especially concern, that I have read matters concerning teenage morals.

I am the father of six, including four daughters, and have had no great interests other than my family.

Never has one of my children had to sit alone wondering where mother or father was. We consider that we are extremely lucky to be able to say this. We do not feel unselfish; but rather selfish to have had so much pleasure and enjoyment for so many years.

All that today's children have is what they have gained through heredity or environment, and we, the adults, have provided both.

Sex, drugs, cigarettes, and alcohol are sold on a vast scale by adults to "immoral" teenagers, and our Government also elected by adults takes a cut.

One could practically guarantee to pick 18 good ones out of 20 young people at senior high schools, despite this attempt at corruption by "adults." If you picked 10 from 20 adults, you would have to throw some back.

We admire the gentlemen who have brought the matter into the open, and we are sure that the vast majority of young people would feel the same.

These men are not weak with complacency as are so many adults (a large number would not even know what subjects their children were doing at high school), they are strong, and obviously wish to protect our youngsters, including the few that have been corrupted.

Perhaps they and others like them will manage to lead our

The emancipated woman, in her continued fight for equality with the man, has gradually loosened her moral standards in an attempt to gain this equality. She bares her body, wears seductive clothing, and continually advertises herself to male audiences.

If the woman were to revise her standards, and educate her daughters in the methods of placating the male and the advantages of staying pure, could we have at least part of the answer?

New Norfolk. R.L.R.

Once again students have come under fire regarding their social behaviour, and once again we are told the parents are to blame.

I have two teenagers who would love to attend some old-time dances (they learn this at school), but can anyone tell me where they can find a 50-50 dance anywhere?

Week after week in the newspaper we see cabarets being held by numerous parents and friends' associations, but we cannot take our children along to take part in helping raise these funds.

This could be very simply overcome by putting into use the many, many local halls that are just going to waste, and have 50-50 dances so that parents and students can mix together.

Where can young people go at the weekend after studying all week, except to private parties or stay home and study some more?

Let us make use of our RSL halls that were built at great

Youth admitted killing as he ate chips, Court told

A DETECTIVE told the Hobart Court yesterday that 18-year-old David William Toomey was eating fish and chips on the bank of the Huon River when he first admitted killing Rokeby taxi driver Terence Trevor Mundy.

The night before, Toomey and Ronald John Frost had made independent statements to Devonport police blaming each other for the shooting, Det-Sgt Ashley Childs told the Court.

Toomey, of no fixed address, called no evidence and reserved his defence when the prosecution case ended yesterday. He was committed for trial at the Supreme Court in the sittings beginning on July 28.

Frost (24), of Forster St, New Town, will appear this morning in the Hobart Court, when Mr W. M. Hodgman will make submissions to the Magistrate (Mr R. F. Turner) on his behalf.

Toomey and Frost have pleaded not guilty to murdering Mundy at Mountain River, near Grove, on June 17.

Hidden rifle

Toomey was represented by Mr A. G. Ogilvie, Frost by Mr Hodgman. Sen-Const J. Woolley prosecuted.

Det-Sgt Childs said that on June 21 Frost and Toomey had gone with police to the Huon to point out where they had left the body of Mundy, and where they had hidden the rifle used in the shooting.

Later, he was with Toomey and two other detectives near the Huon River. Toomey was eating fish and chips, while Frost was further along the bank showing detectives where he had thrown the rifle into the river.

Det-Sgt Childs said he asked Toomey: "Well, who did kill the taxi driver?"

Toomey replied: "I did." He told Mr A. G. Ogilvie (for Toomey) that he had asked the question "out of the blue" because he was doubtful who had shot Mundy.

In other evidence, the Court was told that Frost and Toomey had been picked up by police at Devonport three days after the shooting on suspicion of illegally using a car.

At this stage, police had no idea a murder had been committed — only that a taxi driver, Mundy, was missing, the Court was told.

Det-Const Desmond Eric Bligh, of Devonport CIB, said he interviewed Frost at the Devonport police station on the night of June 20.

Frost had told him that he and Toomey were drinking at a city hotel and Toomey had telephoned for a taxi on a direct line to Yellow Cabs.

They had driven to the bush track at Mountain River and Toomey had told the taxi driver to stop. Then they all got out of the car.

Toomey had said "This is it" — then shot the taxi driver.

Det Bligh said he asked Frost: "Where did the first shot hit?" Frost had answered: "In the chest, I think."

Mundy had gone back to the taxi, wounded, and got behind the driving wheel, but Toomey had walked up to the driving side window and fired more shots into him with the .22 calibre automatic rifle he had stolen at Hamilton.

Only a pu[p]

Rifle "under coat"

During the taxi ride, Toomey had the rifle hidden under his grey gabardine overcoat.

Det Bligh said Frost had told him that after the shooting Toomey had pulled Mundy from the car and left him on the side of the track.

Then they had taken all the money they could find, thrown the rifle into the Huon River, taken all the taxi signs and equipment from the cab, and driven back to Hobart.

Det Bligh said Frost had claimed that earlier in the night Toomey had told him he was going to take a taxi to Grove, shoot the driver, and rob him.

"I thought it was too late to back out then," Frost had told the detective.

During the journey to Grove they had talked to Mundy about the weather, and the frost on the side of the road.

Frost had said: "Just before he picked us up I said (to Toomey) 'Don't do it' several times."

Det Bligh said that next day the two defendants had

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Ray refused new trial

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee. — The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals yesterday refused James Earl Ray's request for a new trial in the slaying of negro civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King.

Ray, now serving a 99-year prison term after pleading guilty to murdering Dr King in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 5, 1968, will now take his request to the State Supreme Court, his lawyer said.

The five-member Court of Criminal Appeals convened here yesterday to review the trial record and to determine whether a new trial should be granted.—AAP-Reuter.

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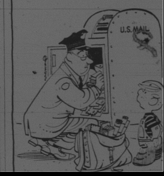
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